THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FAILEIRO): (a) to (c) Consequent on the decontrol of phosphatic fertilizers w.e.f. 25.8.1992 and also decanalisation of DAP imports, producers/suppliers are free to sell phosphatic fertilizers in the open market with no subsidy from the Government. Imported DAP is available at a considerably lower price compared to the cost of production of indigenous units. Faced with this situation, a number of DAP units have suspended production. Units making nitrogenous fertilizers are however functioning normally.

In dealing with this situation for the phosphatic industry Government are keen to ensure supplies at affordable prices to farmers. Accordingly, the focus is on helping the industry to bring down their cost of production and become more competitive. Government has already abolished customs duty on import of phosphoric acid. Government has also announced a scheme of refund of customs duty paid on capital goods, ...as also a concession of 3 per cent in interest rate on term loans, provided that the net interest rate after adjustment of this concession remains at a minimum of 12 per cent. These concessions are available to all the fertilizer plants commissioned on or after 1.1.1991. The phosphatic industry has also filed an application for initiating anti-dumping proceedings in respect of imported DAP.

Steep rise in the price of 'Acitrom-4 tablet

@1880. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 'Acitrom-4 is a life saving drug and used in curing heart ailment;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware of the fact that the prices of 'Acitrom-4' has gone up from Rs. 13/- per tablet to Rs. 60/- per tablet;

(c) whether it is a fact that Dindevan and Variferin which are the substitutes of this medicine are also not available in the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to check the Prices of 'Acitrom-4'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e) Acitrom-4 is a non-scheduled formulation, and the manufacturer increased the price from Rs. 9.15 in March '92 to Rs. 55.61 in November '92 for 10's strip. However, on Government intervention, the company has reduced the Price from Rs. 55.61 to Rs. 42.05 recently.

(c) and (d) No shortages of these formulations have come to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

Inquiry into the affairs of M/s. Lupin Labs. Limited

1881. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the major producer of rifampicin M/s. Lupin Labs. Ltd., was to commence basic production long back but imports of intermediates and penultimates were permitted to the company by relaxing the conditions;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently when PMP of the company expired in March, 1993, advance imports for 1-2 years have been permitted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company has indulged in bungling of crores of rupees in imports and exports and have also got their input norms manipulated in respect of anti T.B. drugs and other drugs; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 298 transferred from 28th April, 1993.